

**James Knox Polk to Andrew Jackson, April 27, 1845,
from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by
John Spencer Bassett.**

class=MsoNormal>PRESIDENT POLK TO JACKSON

Washington, April 27, 1845.

PRIVATE

My Dear Sir: I was much concerned to learn from your last letter, as well as from other sources, that your affliction continued, and that your health was worse than it was when I parted with you. As the warm season approaches I most naturally hope that it may be better.

My labours have been thus far so great, that I have had scarcely a moment of time, to attend to my correspondence. The change of the *Globe* has not, as far as I know, affected in the slightest degree, the good personal relations existing between *Mr. Blair* and myself. He has acted well in the matter. In the course of his long career as an Editor, he had necessarily incurred the displeasure of a portion of the Democratic party, and this, together with the reasons which I have already given you, made the change necessary, if not indispensable, to the harmonious Union and harmony of the party. As soon as he found that such was my settled opinion he yielded, and has since acted well. . . .

Much of my time has been occupied recently in relation to our Foreign affairs. The arrogant tone of defiance, and of menace held by the British Press, and Ministry on receiving, my inaugural address, has not disturbed my nerves. My position upon the Oregon and Texas questions will be firmly and boldly, but at the same time, prudently maintained. I have no fear of War, but if contrary to my present impressions it should be

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forced upon us, because we respect and maintain our just rights, let it come. You may rely upon it we will not recede from our ground.

Majr. Donelson's last dispatch was of the 3rd Inst. We have private letters from others as late as the 10th. I am satisfied that President Jones is opposed to annexation, and there is too much reason to believe that the intrigues and influence of the British and French Ministers in Texas, have had some effect upon the Executive Government, and upon other leading men. Houston up to my last accounts held a mysterious silence on the subject. If he were to take ground for annexation the question would be settled in a day. If he unites with *Jones* against it my information is that the people, a vast majority of whom are for annexation, will take the matter into their own hands, and carry it through. The feeling of President Jones, is, I am satisfied, to delay action, until the British Government can consummate their plans. *Ashel* 1 *Smith*, the Texan Secretary of State, left Texas immediately upon hearing of the passage of the Resolutions by our Congress. He is now in the U. States, and we have information that he will probably sail for England in the Boston packet, which will leave on the 1st of May. He has not been at Washington.

1 Ashbel. See page 409,
post.

Majr. *Donelson* has been instructed to press the subject to an early conclusion.

From Mexico I think there is but little danger of any hostile movement. We have taken the precaution however to have a strong naval force off Vera Cruz and in the Gulf, ready promptly to protect our citizens and commerce should any hostile movement be made. We adopt your motto: to ask from other nations nothing but what is right, and submit to nothing which is wrong.

With my prayers for the continuance of your life, and that you may have improved health,

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I am Most sincerely Your friend